AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising:

(a) a stiffening agent having a complete melting point of about 33 °C or greater which is selected from the group consisting of R-COOR', R-OR', R-CONR'R", R-NR'R", salts thereof, and mixtures thereof, wherein:

(i) R is selected from the group consisting of alkyl radicals having from about 14 to about 24 carbon atoms, alkenyl radicals having from about 14 to about 24 carbon atoms, alkynyl radicals having from about 14 to about 24 carbon atoms, heteroalkyl radicals having from about 14 to about 24 carbon atoms, heteroalkenyl radicals having from about 14 to about 24 carbon atoms, and heteroalkynyl radicals having from about 14 to about 24 carbon atoms; and

(ii) R' and R" are each, independently, selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl radicals, alkenyl radicals, alkynyl radicals, heteroalkyl radicals, heteroalkenyl radicals, and heteroalkynyl radicals; and

(b) a lipase inhibitor; and

(c) a non-digestible, non-absorbable, open-celled ~~HIPE~~ high internal phase emulsion (HIPE) foam.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the stiffening agent is selected from the group consisting of fatty acids, salts of fatty acids, and mixtures thereof.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The composition according to Claim 3 wherein the lipase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of 2-amino-4H-3,1-benzoxazin-4-ones; 2-oxy-4H-3,1-benzoxazin-4-ones; 2-thio-4H-3,1-benzoxazin-4-ones; tetrahydrolipstatins; chiral alkylphosphonates; chiral isomers of beta-lactone; and mixtures thereof.

6. (Original) The composition according to Claim 5 wherein the lipase inhibitor is a compound selected from the group consisting of tetrahydrolipstatin, lipstatin, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 6 comprising about 0.001% to about 15% of the lipase inhibitor and about 0.1% to about 99% of the stiffening agent, all by weight of the composition.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 8 comprising about 0.2% to about 95% of the stiffening agent, by weight of the composition.

10. (Previously Presented) The composition according to Claim 9 comprising about 0.8% to about 95% of the stiffening agent, by weight of the composition.

11. (Original) The composition according to Claim 10 wherein the lipase inhibitor is tetrahydrolipstatin.

12. (Original) The composition according to Claim 10 wherein the stiffening agent is selected from the group consisting of calcium stearate, behenic acid, and mixtures thereof.

13-48. (Canceled)

49. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) A method selected from the group consisting of treating gastrointestinal distress, treating fecal urgency, treating obesity, treating hyperlipidemia, treating diarrhea, inhibiting anal leakage, reducing levels of toxic substances, reducing blood cholesterol levels, inducing satiety, effecting weight loss, effecting weight control, treating Type II Diabetes, delaying onset of Type II Diabetes, preventing Type II Diabetes, and combinations thereof, the method comprising administering a composition comprising:

(a) a safe and effective amount of a stiffening agent having a complete melting point of about 33 ^{o}C or greater, wherein the stiffening agent is selected from the group consisting of R-COOR', R-OR', R-CONR'R", R-NR'R", salts thereof, and mixtures thereof, wherein:

(i) R is selected from the group consisting of alkyl radicals having from about 14 to about 24 carbon atoms, alkenyl radicals having from about 14 to about 24 carbon atoms, alkynyl radicals having from about 14 to about 24 carbon atoms, heteroalkyl radicals having from about 14 to about 24 carbon atoms, heteroalkenyl radicals having from about 14 to about 24 carbon atoms, and heteroalkynyl radicals having from about 14 to about 24 carbon atoms; and

(ii) R' and R" are each, independently, selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl radicals, alkenyl radicals, alkynyl radicals, heteroalkyl radicals, heteroalkenyl radicals, and heteroalkynyl radicals;

(b) a safe and effective amount of a lipase inhibitor; and

(c) a non-digestible, non-absorbable, open-celled ~~HIPE~~ high internal phase emulsion (HIPE) foam.

50. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 49 wherein the stiffening agent is selected from the group consisting of fatty acids, salts of fatty acids, and mixtures thereof.

51. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 50 wherein the composition comprises about 0.1% to about 99% of the stiffening agent, by weight of the composition.

52. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 50 wherein the stiffening agent is selected from the group consisting of calcium stearate, behenic acid, and mixtures thereof.

53. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 52 wherein the lipase inhibitor is tetrahydrolipstatin.

54-78. (Canceled)